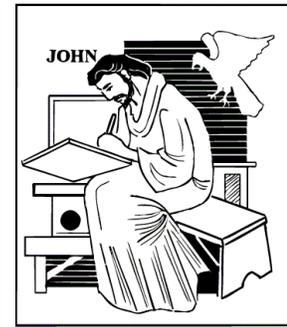
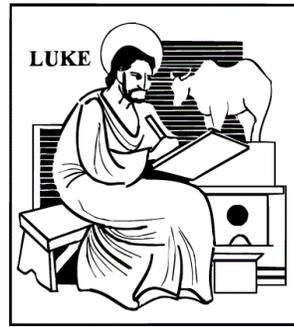
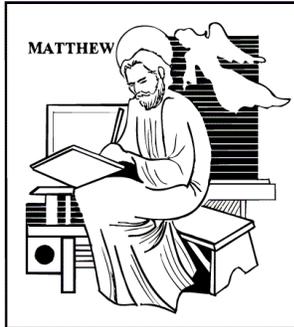


Breaking Open the Word



October 4, 2015 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 140 Gospel [Mk 10:2-16](#)

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh.* Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Spiritual Reflection: In 1930, the Anglican's Lambeth Conference in England became the first official Christian body to approve the use of contraception in the most severe cases. In response, a Jesuit, Fr. David Lord, wrote the following analysis. 1) Birth control destroys the difference between prostitutes and respectable women by eliminating the ideal of motherhood and substituting the ideal of personal pleasure and self-gratification. 2) Birth control leads to infidelity by destroying self-restraint and self-discipline. For unmarried folk it banishes fear of consequences. 3) Birth control prevents noble faculty by refusal to co-operate with God in creation of children and substitutes for it, pleasure. 4) Birth control affects the future. Substituting self-gratification for children, (those using it) strike at the very source of human life. - Kimberly Hahn

Spiritual Questions:

1. What do you think about each of the four reasons above?
2. How can we stop abortion in our area?
3. God's always describe children as a blessing in the Bible. How do you describe children?
4. How can children be a role model for us in faith?
5. What is the role of children in marriage? In our faith family?